

Minutes of the RC33 Business Meeting in Sydney, July 11, 2012

Present RC33 Board Members: Katja Lozar Manfreda, Nina Baur, Cor Van Dijkum, Ken Reed, Emanuela Sala, Jörg Blasius

Other RC33 Members.

Schedule:

1. Welcome and report on RC33 activities since the last Business Meeting in 2010.
2. Report on the RC33 events.
3. Revised RC33 Statutes.
4. Replacement and nominations for new board members.
5. Plans for future activities.
6. Other.

1. Welcome and report on RC33 activities since the last Business Meeting in 2010

Present RC33 members were welcomed by RC33 President Katja Lozar Manfreda.

The following reports were presented:

1.1 Emanuela Sala: Membership report

We have two types of membership: RC33 only members and ISA-RC33 members. The ISA-RC33 membership list is managed by the ISA itself. We receive updated versions of the ISA-RC33 membership list upon request.

Overall, we currently have 201 members (as of July 2012): 102 ISA – RC33 members and 99 RC33 only members .

The geographical distribution of the RC33 members only is the following :

	number	%
Australia	22	22,2

Austria	2	2,0
Belgium	3	3,0
Canada	2	2,0
France	3	3,0
Germany	14	14,1
Greece	2	2,0
Ireland	1	1,0
Israel	1	1,0
Japan	2	2,0
Luxemburg	1	1,0
New Zealand	9	9,1
Poland	1	1,0
Slovenia	3	3,0
Spain	1	1,0
Switzerland	2	2,0
The Netherlands	8	8,1
UK	7	7,1
USA	15	15,2
	99	100

Emanuela Sala brought up some issues regarding the management of the different membership lists (i. e., automatize the renewal of the membership). These issues were already discussed in a previous meeting but due to the lack of funding we were not able to improve the way the two lists are currently organised and managed. Possibilities for reorganization of the system of membership registration through the RC33 website will be explored.

The attendants of the business meeting discussed that there were two problems yet to be resolved:

1. Although RC 33 members are free to choose, if they also want to be ISA members or not. However, timeslots during the World Congress of Sociology and the ISA forum are assigned by number of ISA members (not RC-members). As the number of RC33 ISA members has declined, our timeslots will also decline, if this trend does not change. It therefore was decided at the business meeting to continue the tradition in the future that attending a RC33 conference is cheaper for ISA members.
2. The idea of recruiting more members in Australia and Asia by having a conference in Australia was only partly successful – while RC33 gained many new members from Australia and New Zealand, it gained hardly any new Asian members. At the same time (probably due to the distance) many old members did not attend the conference and/or end their membership. In order not to lose even more old members, it was thus decided to have the next RC33 conference in Europe.

1.2 Cor van Dijkum, Vice President for Finances: Finance report

The financial situation of RC33 is not bad.

On the *positive side* is the income of the RC33 Bank Account and the income using the Paypal Account:

RC33Bank Account

INCOME

RC33 NON-ISA Membership fee	€ 220,00
Rest Naples Conference NON-ISA membership fees	€ 4.310,00
ISA/RC33 membership fee 2010/2011	€ 3.340,00
<i>Total</i>	<i>€ 7.870,00</i>

Paypal Bank Account

Income

Balance 03-07-2012	€ 5.331,49
--------------------	------------

On the *negative side* are the expenses:

Cost BMS: Publisher AIMS/Karl von Meter	€ 5.000,00
Cost BMS: Publisher Sage	€ 3.287,96
Bank Account Cost	€ 208,50
Cost Captcha script Website	€ 59,50
<i>Total</i>	<i>€ 8.555,96</i>

That results in a positive balance of : € 9.141,14

However for that money RC33 has to pay SAGE in the future for BMS issues. Taking into account the issues old and new members has to receive in the future RC33 is due to pay to Sage € 5.000,- (depending on the exact exchange rate and numbers of ISA members). And one has to realize that € 4.310,- in 2010 was coming from the income of the Naples conference.

Further, one has to take care that the European Authorities perceive RC33 as a non commercial organization, not paying VAT.

Katja Lozar Manfreda (who is taking care of the RC33 Website) and Emanuela Sala (the Vice President for Membership) have expressed a need to dedicate some funds to the RC33 website in order to facilitate the membership applications and payments directly through the website. A proposal will be prepared by Katja Lozar Manfreda and Emanuela Sala to further explore this.

1.3 Karl van Meter, Vice President for Information, and Katja Lozar Manfreda: Publication report

The RC33 is publishing or is related to the publishing of the following:

- RC33 associated journal Bulletin de Methodologie Sociologique (BMS), Sage, printed copy twice a year.
- BMS also includes the RC33 Newsletter (the next one in October 2012).
- BMS/RC33 listserv – e-mail announcements sent to 300 current and former RC33 members (approximately six emails per week).
- RC33 Webpage: www.rc33.org. An important activity in the last years has been establishing the new RC33 Webpage (www.rc33.org). One of the plans for the future is to reorganize the website in order to make it possible for new members to register online via this website.
- First book of the Sage series “Research Methods for Social Scientists” that is edited by leading members of RC33 (Simona Balbi, Joerg Blasius, Anne Ryen, and Cor van Dijkum): Joerg Blasius and Victor Thiessen - *Assessing the Quality of Survey Data*.

2. Report on the RC33 events

2.1 Ken Reed: Report on the RC33 8th International Conference on Social Science Methodology in Sydney

Registrants at Wednesday 11 July 2012: 130 RC33 members, 256 non-members, total 395 registrants.

Total number of presentations: 275

Authors (number of listed authors on all presented papers): 527

Registrants by country:

Australia	167	Saudi Arabia	2		
Germany	50	Switzerland	2		
United States	38	Sweden	2		
New Zealand	34	Brazil	1		
United Kingdom	21	Philippines	1		
Netherlands	13	Luxembourg	1		
France	6	Trinidad and Tobago	1		
Italy	5	Nigeria	1		
Canada	5	Portugal	1		
Russian Federation	5	United Arab Emirates	1		

Overall the conference was successful. While delegates from all over the world attended, the conference also succeeded in making RC33 well known in Australia.

After the report of Ken Reed it was noted that the way how the registration to the R33 conference had been handled this time was not favourable for the RC33. The non-members were redirected to

the RC33 website in order to become a member first and only then they could register to the RC33 conference as RC33 members, getting a lower registration fee. The better way would be to allow for automatic registration to the RC33 when registering for the conference. In the first case many of the registrants would not have their (separately paid) membership fee refunded by their organizations. And thus many of them decided not to become an RC33 member. As a consequence, the number of RC33 members has significantly decreased since the last conference in Naples and thus also the funds from registrations are significantly lower. It was noted that for the next RC33 conference special attention should be dedicated to the process of conference and membership registration.

2.2 Nina Baur: Report on the participation of RC33 at the 2nd ISA Forum Buenos Aires, August 1-8, 2012

- 140 paper submissions, 13 sessions and 4 round tables.
- New topics and formats:
 - qualitative methods, e.g. ethnography and video analysis,
 - methods for specific research fields (see below).
- 10 Joint Sessions and Round Tables:
 - RC11 (Sociology of Aging),
 - RC14 (Sociology of Communication, Knowledge and Culture),
 - RC17 (Sociology of Organizations),
 - RC22 (Sociology of Religion),
 - RC41 (Sociology of Population) ,
 - WG02 (Historical and Comparative Sociology).
- ISA: new tendencies of formalization and professionalization.
- ISA Research Council Business Meeting (RC33 Delegate: Godfrey St. Bernard). Some topics:
 - Presentation by Confex (on-line conference system),
 - Research Committees, Working and Thematic Groups' activities: Performance evaluation, discussion of new measures and evaluation criteria,
 - Revision of RC/WG/TG Statutes.

Nina Baur reported that ISA currently tries to formalize and professionalize its structures better. This also means, that the ISA Forum is currently gaining the status of an official interim conference, including an ISA Research Council Business Meeting. At the 2012 Meeting, Godfrey St. Bernard represented RC33. However, for the future, ISA recommends that all RCs have their Business meeting

during the ISA Forum (and not only at their own conference, such as the RC33 conference). This means for the future that we should discuss, if it is possible to have more time between the ISA Forum and the RC33 conference in order to enable as many members as possible to attend both conferences.

Some of the topics discussed at the 2012 ISA Research Council Business Meeting were (although not much could be said on these topics as the ISA Forum took place after the RC33 conference):

- Presentation by Confex (on-line conference system)
- Research Committees, Working and Thematic Groups' activities: Performance evaluation, discussion of new measures and evaluation criteria
- Revision of RC/WG/TG Statutes

3. Revised RC33 Statutes

Katja Lozar Manfreda explained the background and the procedure of the revision of the RC33 Statutes. In course of restructuring ISA, ISA requested RC33 to revise its Statutes in order to make them more detailed and up-to-date. Board members (especially Nina Baur) prepared a revised version and sent it for inspection to the ISA on January 31, 2012. A reply from ISA was received the last week of June 2012. The revised Statutes should be circulated among the RC33 members, recommendations should be collected and we should finally a vote on revised Statutes.

During this revision process, the Board tried to keep as many content of the old statutes (especially Name, Nature of RC33, Aims and Scope). Additionally, the Board tried to formalize and write down current RC33 practice, e.g. on Activities (including rules for organizing RC33 conferences), Membership and Membership Fees and Bodies (Business Meeting, Board, Roles of the Board Members). Additionally the Board suggest some new rules, namely New Board Member Roles (due to extra work): a Vice President for ISA World Congress Programme Coordination and a Vice President for ISA Forum Programme Coordination. Finally, we had to develop a Nomination Procedure and Electoral Procedure of RC33 Board Members, as this was demanded by ISA.

The revised Statutes has been published on the RC33 website on July 2, 2012, at <http://www.rc33.org/uploadi/editor/1341257161RevisedRC33StatutesJuly22012.pdf>, and circulated among the RC33 members via the BMS-RC33 mailing list on July 5, 2012. The RC33 members were asked to read them and comment on them, preferably during the present RC33 Business Meeting.

Since there was not enough time between the circulation of the revised RC33 Statutes and the present Business Meeting, the following procedure regarding the Statutes has been decided on:

1. A preliminary vote on the revised RC33 Statutes, including the recommendation from the business meeting, has been carried out during the RC33 Business Meeting. All present RC33 members were in favour of the Revised Statutes.
2. In this way a trial version of the RC33 Statutes (published at <http://www.rc33.org/uploadi/editor/1357901626RC33STATUTES-trialversion11.1.2013.pdf>) enters into effect July 11, 2012.

3. Until the next RC33 Business meeting in Japan in July 2014 we circulate the voted trial version, we act according to this trial version, and we accept any recommendation by our members.
4. We vote on the final version of the RC33 Statutes at the next business meeting.

4. Replacement and nominations for new board members.

1. Replacement of Vernon Gayle, Vice President at large.

Vernon Gayle wants to resign from the Board.

The decision of the RC33 President Katja Lozar Manfreda (with the support of the Board): we do not replace him for the rest of the mandate of the current board. We thus decrease the number of Board members. This decision is based on Article 6 of the revised RC33 Statutes:

„The number of offices may be increased or decreased to maximize the effectiveness of the work of RC33. Decisions on the number of officers shall be made either at the business meeting, or between business meetings by the President.“

2. Nominations of new board member: A Vice-President for the ISA congress

A call for nominations for the Vice President for the ISA World Congress Programme Coordination has been open. Prerequisites that the candidate must fulfil are the following:

- Take responsibility to organize the RC33 participation at the ISA congress in Japan 2012 (together with the RC33 President).
- Should be an ISA-RC33 member.
- Should commit to attend the ISA congress in Japan.

Call for nominations will be circulated among the RC33 members via the RC33-BMS mailing list and electronic voting will be organized.

5. Plans for future activities.

The following events are planned:

- 2014 ISA Congress in Japan.
- 2016 ISA Forum, place not announced yet.
- 2016 9th RC33 International Conference on Social Science Methodology. There will be a call for offers for organizing the next 9th RC33 International Conference on Social Science Methodology (probably also in 2016 and preferably in Europe due to the membership issues).

Written by Katja Lozar Manfreda, Nina Baur, Emanuela Sala, Cor van Dijkum, Ken Reed

October 15, 2012